



PRESS RELEASE

AG Frosh: Baltimore Man Sentenced to 25 Years in Prison for Series of Commercial Robberies

BALTIMORE, MD (September 2, 2016) - Maryland Attorney General Brian E. Frosh announced today that the Honorable Jan M. Alexander of the Circuit Court for Baltimore County sentenced Montrell Smiley, 46, to 45 years with all but 25 years suspended without the possibility of parole for a series of robberies that occurred across Maryland earlier this year. Smiley was indicted for the robberies by the Organized Crime Unit of the Office of the Attorney General, in coordination with the Baltimore County State's Attorney's Office and the Howard County State's Attorney's Office, in early 2016. Prosecutors stated at sentencing that Smiley was responsible for at least 17 commercial robberies across multiple jurisdictions, including Baltimore County, Baltimore City, and Howard County, during the months of February and March 2016. According to the State, Smiley entered the establishments and demanded money from the cashiers, each time threatening force and insinuating a weapon. According to court documents, Smiley's record includes charges for burglary, theft, as well as 8 prior convictions for robbery.

This case was the product of an investigation by the FBI Baltimore Violent Crimes Task Force, Baltimore County Police Department, Baltimore City Police Department, and Howard County Police Department. Law enforcement worked together to identify, track, and arrest Smiley. "When law enforcement offices work together, we can make a big impact on crime in our communities. This defendant committed crimes across multiple jurisdictions, and because of the collaboration between law enforcement, we were able to hold him accountable," said Attorney General Frosh. "I commend the FBI Baltimore Violent Crimes Task Force, the Baltimore City, Baltimore County and Howard County police departments, as well as the Baltimore County, Howard County and Baltimore City State's Attorney's Offices for their hard work and collaboration on this case."

"This prosecution is a great example of the success of the Attorney General's program to get multiple jurisdictions to work together in getting violent offenders off the streets," said Baltimore County State's Attorney Scott Shellenberger. "Getting several robbery convictions in multiple jurisdictions in one day is great for public safety and the victims of these crimes."

"Most people fear crime because it can be random, and criminals are unpredictable. When anyone enters a store intent on robbing it, even if a weapon isn't shown, there is always a chance someone could get hurt, or worse. For that reason, the FBI and our law enforcement partners on the Violent Crimes Task Force won't stop searching out suspects in these cases and bringing them to justice," said Kevin L. Perkins, Special Agent in Charge of the Baltimore FBI.

In making this announcement, Attorney General Frosh thanked Organized Crime Chief Katie Dorian, Assistant Attorney General Melissa E. Hoppmeyer, Deputy State's Attorney for Howard County Mary Murphy, and Special Assistant Attorney General for Baltimore County Felise Kelly.